

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0022] with the following paragraph:

[0022] A cleaning unit 320, which removes the waste toner from the photosensitive drum 301 is shown in FIG. 5. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the cleaning unit 320 includes a blade 121, which is in contact with the photosensitive drum 301 to scrape off the waste toner. The waste toner removed from the photosensitive drum 301 using the blade 121 is temporarily held in a housing 110. In addition, the cleaning unit 320 having similar structure may be provided to remove the waste toner from the transfer belt 304. Similarly, the electrophotographic printer shown in FIG. 6 may be provided with the ~~wasted~~waste toner cleaning unit 320 shown in FIG. 5 to remove the waste toner from the photosensitive belt 312 and the transfer drum 313. The waste toner removed from the photoreceptor or the intermediate transfer medium by the cleaning unit 320 is transferred to a waste toner collection tank (200 of FIG. 7) by a waste toner collecting device.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0024] with the following paragraph:

[0024] As shown in FIG. 7, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the waste toner collecting device includes a housing 110 to temporarily hold waste toner removed from an image holding body in which a toner image is temporarily formed, an exhaust guide member 130 having an exhaust hole 131 through which the waste toner is exhausted from the housing 110, an opening and closing unit ~~450~~ having a shutter ~~454~~150 to open and close the exhaust hole 131, and an inlet guide member 180 that includes an inlet path 181 to connect the exhaust hole 131 to an inlet of the waste toner collection tank 200. The waste toner collecting device also comprises an auger 120 which transfers the waste toner temporarily held in the housing 110 to the exhaust hole 131.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0026] with the following paragraph:

[0026] The opening and closing unit ~~450~~ further includes a rack 160, as shown in FIG. 8A, engaged with a pinion ~~452~~151 formed on the shutter ~~454~~150, where the shutter ~~454~~150 is

rotatably installed to the exhaust guide member 130. The rack 160 is fixedly installed to a printer frame 170. When the waste toner collecting device ascends or descends, the pinion ~~452-151~~ is rolled along a gear side of the fixed rack 160 such that the shutter ~~454-150~~ is rotated and a cover portion ~~454-152~~ opens and closes the exhaust hole 131.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0028] with the following paragraph:

[0028] A compression spring 190, an elastic member, that elastically supports the inlet guide member 180 with respect to the printer frame 170 and closely maintains a gap between the exhaust hole 131 and an inlet side of an inlet path 181 when the exhaust guide member 130 ascends or descends is provided to the waste toner collecting device. When the image holding body is mounted to the printer, the exhaust guide member 130 descends and pushes the inlet guide member 180. Accordingly, when the compression spring 190 is compressed, the inlet guide member 180 descends simultaneously. On the contrary, when the image holding body is removed from the printer, the exhaust guide member 130 ascends, and the inlet guide member 180 also ascends in its original position by a restoration force generated via the compression spring 190. Further, a locking portion 132 is provided in the exhaust guide member 130 to which a locking protrusion 153 of the shutter ~~454-150~~ is elastically inserted.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0030 through 0035] with the following paragraph:

[0030] According to the above structure, when the waste toner temporarily held in the housing 110 is not transferred to the waste toner collection tank 200, that is, when the image holding body is removed from the printer, as shown in FIGS. 8A and 8B, the cover portion ~~454-152~~ of the shutter ~~454-150~~ closes the exhaust hole 131.

[0031] According to another embodiment of the invention where the image holding body is mounted to the printer, the exhaust guide member 130 descends towards the inlet guide member 180. When the exhaust hole 131 comes in contact with the inlet side of the inlet path 181, the inlet guide member 180 descends with the exhaust guide member 130. In this case, the compression spring 190 elastically supports the inlet guide member 180 so that the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181 are closely adhered to each other. According to an embodiment where the sponge 140 is provided to the inlet side of the inlet path 181, a top surface of the sponge 140 contacts the cover portion ~~454-152~~ of the shutter ~~454-150~~ closing the

exhaust hole 131. As such, the gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181 before the shutter ~~454~~150 opens is prevented. Hereinafter, a case where the sponge 140 is provided to the inlet side of the inlet path 181 will be described.

[0032] As the exhaust guide member 130 descends, the pinion ~~452~~151 of the shutter ~~454~~150 is engaged with the gear of the rack 160. The cover portion ~~454~~152 of the shutter ~~454~~150 is closely adhered to the sponge 140, thus, when the pinion ~~452~~151 is rolled along the gear side of the rack 160 and the shutter ~~454~~150 starts to open, the sponge 140 closes the gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181. In the case where the exhaust guide member 130 continues to descend, the shutter ~~454~~150 opens the exhaust hole 131 completely, and the sponge 140 is compressed to close the gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181 while the inlet guide member 180 descends as shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B. Accordingly, the waste toner in the housing 110 transferred to the exhaust hole 131 by the auger 120 drops downward into the exhaust hole 131, and is transferred to the waste toner collection tank 200 via the inlet path 181 where a gap between the inlet side of the inlet path 181 and the exhaust hole 131 is closed by the sponge 140. Thus, the problem that occurs when the waste toner stacked around the exhaust hole 131 drops and/or splatters when the shutter ~~454~~150 starts to open is stopped via the use of the sponge 140 as the compressible sealing member, and the waste toner is accurately transferred.

[0033] Alternatively, when the image holding body is removed from the printer, the exhaust guide member 130 ascends. As such, the inlet guide member 180 also ascends by the restoration force generated via the compression spring 190, and the gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet path 181 remains closed by the sponge 140. According to this embodiment, the pinion ~~452~~151 is rolled along the gear side of the rack 160, the shutter ~~454~~150 is rotated in its original position, the locking protrusion 153 at a front end of the cover portion ~~454~~152 is elastically inserted in the locking portion 132, and the exhaust hole 131 is finally closed. The top surface of the sponge 140 contacts the cover portion ~~454~~152 of the shutter ~~454~~150 closing the exhaust hole 131 so that there is no gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181 until the exhaust hole 131 is completely closed. To this end, the ascending position of the exhaust guide member 130 is adjusted so that the sponge 140 is spaced apart from the cover portion ~~454~~152 of the shutter ~~454~~150 from when the locking protrusion 153 is inserted in the locking portion 132.

[0034] A method to collect waste toner using a waste toner collecting device will be

described below with reference to FIG. 10. When an image holding body is mounted on a printer, the method comprises, closing the exhaust hole 131 via the shutter ~~454~~150 so that waste toner does not leak when the exhaust guide member 130 starts to descend, maintaining the exhaust hole 131 in the closed state until the exhaust guide member 130 descends, and closely adhering the exhaust hole 131 to the inlet side of the inlet path 181 (when the sponge 140 is attached to the inlet side of the inlet path 181, the top surface of the sponge 140 is closely adhered to the cover portion ~~454~~152 of the shutter ~~454~~150). Further, according to the method, when the exhaust guide member 130 continues to descend, the compression spring 190 elastically supports the inlet guide member 180 and enables a gap between the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet side of the inlet path 181 not to be widened but to be closely maintained. And, when the exhaust hole 131 is closely adhered to the inlet side of the inlet path 181, the opening and closing unit ~~450~~ operates. The method also comprises opening the exhaust hole 131 when the pinion ~~452~~151 formed in the shutter ~~454~~150 that is connected to the rack 160 rotates the shutter ~~454~~150. The exhaust hole 131 is completely opened simultaneous with when the exhaust guide member 180 has completed descending or before descending of the exhaust guide member 180 is completed, and connection of the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet path 181 is completed. The waste toner is transferred from the waste toner collection tank 200 via the exhaust hole 131 and the inlet path 181.

[0034] Removing of the image holding body from the printer is performed in a reverse order. When the exhaust guide member 130 ascends, due to the operation of the pinion ~~452~~151 and the rack 160, the shutter ~~454~~150 is rotated in a direction opposite to the direction of rotation of the shutter ~~454~~150 when the exhaust guide member 130 descends. Before the exhaust hole 131 is spaced from the inlet side of the inlet path 181, the shutter ~~454~~150 completely closes the exhaust hole 131.